



# SIR Branch 116 Newsletter April 2024

Enhancing the lives of our members through fun activities, luncheons and events while making Friends for Life

## Message from Alan

Has Spring arrived? I'm not sure because the weather has remained relatively cold, although we have had a few days in the 70s. Nevertheless, my optimism remains for a warmer and drier April. It was approximately



2 years ago, in March 2022, when our SIRS branch broke out of the pandemic and resumed monthly luncheons. I'm happy to say that luncheon attendance has been great. A shout out to Jerry Hicks and the Dine-0-Sirs for their get togethers, which drew 76 attendees, members, spouses, and partners for its March event at LaFontaine.

If you have not already done so, we ask every member to pay his annual dues of \$15. That's not much to ask for the activities and friendships we've all developed in our Branch. Dues payment by credit card can be found in our Branch Shopping cart or you can send a check to our post office box, SIRS Branch 116, P.O. Box 683, Lafayette, CA, 94549.

The Spring Fling will be on May 9, save the date. Byron Park will be hosting our event. This will be different for us; Byron Park has been reaching out to senior groups in the area to sponsor events. The event will be a "linner" which is a cross between a lunch and dinner, from 1:00 – 3:30pm on May 9. It will be buffet style with several entrees including meat, vegetarian, and salads. We only have room for 74 guests total, so sign up early as there may be a waiting list. The registration form is on the last page of the April and May newsletters. More details will follow.

*Alan Pope, Big SIR*

### Next Meeting

Apr. 15, 2024 @  
Boundary Oak,  
11:30 AM

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**Trampas Topics**

**Signup Now for the Exciting  
New Spring Fling on May 9th  
(Only \$15/person). See more  
info on page 9...**

Call 925-322-1318  
or email to  
[luncheon116@gmail.com](mailto:luncheon116@gmail.com)  
by the Monday  
prior to the  
meeting to cancel  
your standing  
reservation.

## 2024 SIR Branch Officers



<b>Big SIR</b> Alan Pope	<b>Little SIR</b> Paul Russell	<b>Treasurer</b> Charlie Guthrie	<b>Asst. Treas.</b> Al Satake	<b>Secretary</b> Paul Ramacciotti	<b>Asst. Sec.</b> Dan Lawrence	<b>Membership</b> Alan Fitzgerald	<b>Asst. Membr.</b> Greg Hughes
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Don Benioff	Gary Bonfiglio	Jeff Johnson	Sam Beret	Roger Craig	Dave Williams
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### 2024 Support Chairmen

#### **RAMP Department Heads**

- |                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| • Recruitment      | Don Schroeder |
| • Activities       | Mike Ward     |
| • Member Relations | Sam Beret     |
| • Publicity        | Paul Russell  |

#### **Branch Support Chairmen**

- |                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| • Audit Committee        | Ron Armijo             |
| • Nominating Committee   | Roger Craig            |
| • Sunshine Committee     | Open                   |
| • Computer Support       | Neil Schmidt/Phil Goff |
| • Webmaster              | Neil Schmidt/Phil Goff |
| • Newsletter Editor      | Neil Schmidt           |
| • New Member Orientation | Dave Williams          |
| • Membership Roster Prep | Phil Goff              |

#### **Diversity Support Team**

- |                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| • Team Leader  | Fred Wachowicz     |
| • Team Member  | Sam Beret          |
| • Team Member  | Terry Sherman      |
| • Team Member  | Al Satake          |
| • Team Member  | Jerry Hicks        |
| • Team Member  | Michael Barrington |
| • Team Advisor | Lee Moy            |

#### **Luncheon Support Team**

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Attendance             | Dennis Snarr              |
| • Audio Visual           | Neil Schmidt              |
| • Chaplain Committee     | Terry Sherman             |
| • Greeters Committee     | Ramacciotti, Datzman      |
| • Raffle Committee       | Ben Bryce                 |
| • Storytellers Committee | Mac McLoughlin/F. Schafer |

#### **Speakers Committee**

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| • Team Member | James Dawe    |
| • Team Member | Allan Farbman |
| • Team Member | Paul Freitas  |
| • Team Member | Alan Pope     |

### 2024 Activity Chairmen

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Chairman</u>	<u>Asst. Chairman</u>
Amiable Amblers	John Riordan	Joel White
Bocce	Bob Huck	
Book Group 1	Rich Black	Steve Bort
Book Group 2	Scott Clark	Alan Pope
Book Exchange	Dick Kauffman	
Bridge	Jon Dickson	Art Donaldson
Community Service	Jeff Johnson	TBA
Dine-O-SIR	Jerry Hicks	
Fishing	Harry Sherinian	Terry Miller
Golf—18 Hole	Bernie Wroblewski	Ed Lichtig
Golf—9 Hole	Dick Chaffee	D. Mclaughry
Golf—Treasurer	Harry Oberle	
Golf—Carmel	Phil Goff	
Golf—Clinic	Chris Doan	
Mexican Train	Richard Madden	Alex Lutkus
Parties	Open	TBA
Pickleball	Ed Solomon	Gary Bonfiglio
Poker	Open	
\$ums Investment	Dave Sutton, Br.8	
Sunshine	Open	
Theater	Terry Sherman	
Travel	Open	
Walking Tours	Greg Hughes	Jim Tamulski
Wine-O-SIR	Dave Havlik	

### **Some Other SIR Area 16 Activities**

Apple User Group	Stan Holcenberg (Br.171)	925-376-1180
Astronomy	Larry Lange (Br. 8)	925-254-6281
Bowling	Dan Weller (Br. 8)	925-935-5510
Cycling	Larry Kaye (Br.8)	925-698-4030
Digital Photography	Bill Phelon (Br.8)	925-254-8338
Men's Hearts Cards	Bob West (146)	925-518-8472

# Monthly Activities Calendar

## April 2024

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>EASTER</b>	<b>18-Hole Golf</b> (9:40@ Boundary Oak)		<b>9-Hole Golf</b> (10:00@ Pleasanton)		<b>Pickleball</b> (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) <b>Amiable Amblers</b> (9:00@ Contra Costa Canal Trail)	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	<b>18-Hole Golf</b> (9:40@ Boundary Oak)	<b>Luncheon Bridge</b> (10:30@ The Brass Door)	<b>9-Hole Golf</b> (10:00@ Diablo Hills)	<b>Community Service</b>	<b>Pickleball</b> (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) <b>Amiable Amblers</b> (9:00@ Olympic Blvd Staging Area)	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	<b>SIR Br. 116 Luncheon</b> (11:30@ Boundary Oak)	<b>18-Hole Golf</b> (9:36@ Chardonay)	<b>9-Hole Golf</b> (10:00@ Buchanan Fields)	<b>Bocce</b> (10:00@ Clayton Courts) <b>Book Group 2</b> (11:00@ Boundary Oak GC)	<b>Pickleball</b> (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) <b>Amiable Amblers</b> (9:00@ TBD)	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	<b>18-Hole Golf</b> (10:30@ Lake Chabot)	<b>Luncheon Bridge</b> (10:30@ The Brass Door)	<b>9-Hole Golf</b> (10:00@ Diablo Hills) <b>\$ums Investment</b> (1:30 via Zoom)	<b>Fishing Group</b> (8:30@ Diablo Creek)	<b>Walking Tour</b> (10:30@ Bay Model) <b>Pickleball</b> (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) <b>Amiable Amblers</b> (9:00@ TBD)	
28	29	30				
	<b>Book Group 1</b> (10:15@ Orinda Books) <b>18-Hole Golf</b> (10:00@ Las Positas)					



# Branch Administration



**Branch Membership**  
Alan Fitzgerald, Membership Chairman

<b>Total Membership is 188</b>	
Tony Latini	New Member Sponsor is Gary Halick
Ken Ridings	New Member Sponsor is Bob Colvin



**Treasury Report**  
Charlie Guthrie, Treasurer

As of 2/26/2024 158 of 188 active member have paid their 2024 annual dues. The latest list of who has paid and who still needs to pay is available in the Member Info section of the SIR Branch 116 web site: <https://sirinc2.org/branch116/member-info>.

	31-Mar	2024 YTD
Beg Bal 2024		\$ 11,222.12
Contributions	\$ 4,332.00	\$ 19,139.82
Disbursements	\$ (5,007.29)	\$ (18,631.87)
Net (gain/(loss))	\$ (675.29)	\$ 507.95
March Cash Balance		\$ 11,730.07

## April Birthdays

*When you see these members, wish them a Happy Birthday!*

- |                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Lyle Buckert       | 8. Richard Madden |
| 2. Dick Chaffee       | 9. Mac McLoughlin |
| 3. Jim Clizbe         | 10. Alan Pope     |
| 4. Rich Gerchow       | 11. Dan Renke     |
| 5. Denny Giambastiani | 12. Bob Romero    |
| 6. Bill Hemmelsbach   | 13. Ben Smith     |
| 7. Tony Latini        | 14. Marsh Stashyn |

## SIR HAPPENINGS

Checkout the new and improved State SIR Happenings Newsletter. With a new editor the newsletter February 2021 has been radically expanded with lots of information about fun things that are going on in our branches.

You can find it at: <https://sirinc.org/newsletters>

**Don't Forget to Pay Your \$15 2024 Branch Membership Dues!**

## Branch Executive Committee (BEC) Minutes - Summary

Meeting of March 18, 2024

- **Financial:** Branch cash balance as of 3-1-24 is \$12,405.36.
- **Annual dues:** 164 of our 188 members have paid 2024 dues as of 3-16-24.
- **Luncheon:** 112 attendees were submitted for the March Luncheon.
- **Membership:** Current active membership is 188. One new member was introduced.
- **Member Relations:** A motion was passed to establish a designated table for new members

for three luncheons. A new member will be identified with a special name tag for three months.

- **Activities:** 23 activities are operating during March. Four activities are still in need of a chairperson: parties, poker, travel & sunshine.
- **March Guest Speakers:** Janet Hoy and Paul Derkson, of the League of Women's Voters who gave a presentation about the issues surrounding Misinformation & Disinformation.

# Luncheon Speakers

## “Weather Forecasting & Modeling Accidents” By Ron Bassett

Our April Luncheon speaker will be meteorologist Ron Bassett who will provide us the latest information on weather forecasting, including technological advances and the challenges faced with the unique weather patterns in the Bay Area.



Ron Bassett is a Certified Consulting Meteorologist with 50 years of experience in weather forecasting, air pollution, wildfires, modeling accidents involving hazardous material, and expert testimony. Ron holds

bachelor's and master's degrees at UC Davis where he researched the Bay Area's contribution of air pollution to Yosemite Valley. In 2017, Ron retired as Deputy Division Leader in Atmospheric, Earth, and Energy Division at Lawrence Livermore National Lab. He led a team that predicted the consequences of accidents worldwide such as Chernobyl and Fukushima. Currently Ron leads the Tri-Valley Air Quality Climate Alliance, a non-profit encouraging civic action to improve our future air quality. He and his family have lived in Pleasanton since 1983. He enjoys gardening, hiking, and biking in the great outdoors, as well as a round of golf, weather permitting

### The Clubhouse at Boundary Oak **Luncheon Menu**

Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup>

**Backyard Cole Slaw**  
Red and Green Cabbage, Carrots,  
Creamy Slaw Dressing

#### Entrées

##### Tailgate BBQ Ribs

Pork Ribs, Mac and Cheese, Corn Bread, Seasonal Vegetable, Tangy BBQ Sauce

—or—

##### Lemon Garlic Cod

Garlic and Herb Marinated Cod, Mac and Cheese, Corn Bread, Seasonal Vegetable, Creamy Lemon Sauce

—or—

##### Roasted Tomato Penne Pasta

Fire Roasted Tomato Sauce over Penne Pasta, Seasonal Vegetable

#### Dessert

Banana Cream Pie



### Little SIR Paul Russell

Our March Speaker(s) were Janet Hoy and Paul Derkson from the League of Women Voters in Diablo Valley. It was a very interesting presentation about “mis” and “dis” information and their presentation went into things like not getting all your news from one source like social media, radio or television as well as looking at the opposing view.

Also they mentioned to verify your sources. They had a couple slides on AI but kind of skipped over them.

In April, our next speaker will be meteorologist Ron Bassett talking about Bay Area weather forecasting (see above).

# New Members



New Member Harvey Widroe  
with Sponsor Don Schroeder



New Member Tom Walsh  
with Sponsor Gary Halick



New Member Tony Latini  
with Sponsor Gary Halick

## REMINDER

All members have a standing reservation for each luncheon. Call 925-322-1318 or email to [luncheon116@gmail.com](mailto:luncheon116@gmail.com) by the Monday prior to the meeting to cancel your standing reservation.

# Branch Activities



## Pickleball Ed Solomon

**Pickleball**, is the fastest growing team sport in the U.S. for all ages. With the summer months coming soon, we now start **7:30 to 9 am every Friday**, at The Tennis Center in Heather Farm, Walnut Creek. Here's a brief Introduction to Pickleball...

<https://www.youtube.com/atc?v=xEYsymCtIDY>

Required equipment- Paddle, balls, and tennis

sneakers. ( We have extra paddles and balls) Beginners all welcome....it's the best way to see what all the excitement is about. Come on down!!!

Ed Solomon. Co-Chair ———415-215-2684 m

Gary Bonfiglio Co-Chair ———925-330-9612 m

COME ON BY TO PLAY, OR JUST WATCH!!!!  
We're not bad for a bunch of **SIR Dudes!!**

# Branch Activities



## Fishing Harry Sherinian

SIR members and guests are welcome, and indeed encouraged, to participate in fishing trips as well as attend the monthly meetings. Contacts are Big Fish, Phil Scimonelli 661-917-8060 and Harry Sherinian, 510-207-7067, Branch 116 Fishing Coordinator. Next meeting will be at the Legends restaurant at the Diablo Creek golf course on Port Chicago Highway and Highway 4 on **Thursday, April 25th** at 8:30am. Come early.

After much deliberation, we have a rockfish season for this year. Deep water only in April, then

nearshore from May first until October, or they close it suddenly again. No salmon season expected, but there is the slim possibility of a day or two. Meanwhile, we are catching trout, big and delicious. Too many of us feasting to list here. Halibut fishing in the bay has started, but the catch would have to improve to reach a dismal level. The same can be said for stripers in the bay and delta. Ron Lew did get a few undersized leopard sharks in the bay. All of that sadness will change as the water warms and the gush of fresh water into the bay decreases.



## Book Group 1 Rich Black

Book Group #1 will discuss the following books at Orinda Books at 10:15 am on the following dates

- Monday April 29...(rescheduled) "Black Death and the Golden Gate" by Randall
- Monday, May 20..."Fever in the Heartland" by Eagan
- Monday, June 24.. "The Code Breaker" by Walter Isaacson

Book Group #1 met on Monday, March 25, 2024 at Orinda Books to discuss "Born A Crime" by Trevor Noah. Mixed marriages were illegal in The Republic of South Africa at the time of Noah's birth, leading

to a host of stories in this comedian's childhood and young adulthood. To Noah's credit, he uses humor, irony, and satire to explore profound issues surrounding Apartheid, cultural conflict, and political repression in South Africa's recent History. The guys awarded the book a solid 4.0 stars

Richard Black led the discussion which Dan Renke opened. Also contributing were Joel White, Richard White, Steve Bort, Art Donaldson, Jim Flessner, Peter Loew, Mac McLoughlin, Brad Stribling, Mike Schneider, John Riordan, Todd Berman, and Dick Kauffman.



# Branch Activities

## \$UMS Investment

Tom Henry (Br. 174)

On the **4th Wednesday, April 24 at 1:30 PM**, our guest speaker will be John Gardner of Blackhawk Wealth Advisers. His agenda will be decided by the members. Suggestions welcome.

Email Dave Sutton at [avesutn@comcast.net](mailto:avesutn@comcast.net) to be included.



## Golf Clinic Chris Doan

The Golf Clinic is designed specifically for the SIR Golfer and Spouse/Significant Other. It is focused on “tuning up” your game and shaving off some strokes to have a more enjoyable outing. Since the most improvement can normally be gained in the short game, we start the series at the green and work back to the tee box.

The 2024 rotation will begin with...

- Putting & Sand Shots June 15
- then Chipping July 13
- then 50-70 Yards Short Game Aug 3
- followed by Fairway Shots Aug 24
- and finally, Tee Shots Sep 21

Other details about the Clinic offerings ...

**Clinic Location:** Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, Concord

**Clinic Pro:** Pete Asselin, dedicated to the SIRs Clinic and also available for private lessons at a

discounted rate of \$60/hr.

**Times offered for Saturday Clinics:** 9:15, 10:30, 11:45 and 1:00

**Skill Level:** All from low handicappers to beginners

**Clinic Fees:** \$30 for one hour Clinics

**How to register and participate:**

- Start by getting on the Clinic email list. Send request to [cdoan99@gmail.com](mailto:cdoan99@gmail.com) to be added.
- Each Clinic details will be communicated by e-mail ... reservations are made by responding to the e-mail.

That’s all there is to it ... hope you will join us in 2024 to tune up your game. Mark your calendars now so you don’t miss clinic topics which are important to you!

FORE!

## 2024 ANNUAL SURVEY-NEW ACTIVITIES

Out of the recent survey, the following new Activities were requested by five or more members that took the Survey.

- Cycling
- Bowling
- Photography
- Group Theatre
- West coast weekend
- One to three week travel trips
- Computer Technology
- Investment Group

- Workout group
- Chess
- Hiking (½ to 1 day period)

If any member has a desire to start one of these Activities up or become a Activity member, please feel free to contact me.

Thanks,  
Mike Ward  
510-734-9863  
[michael.ward64@comcast.net](mailto:michael.ward64@comcast.net)

# Branch Activities

## Branch 116 2024 Annual Survey Summary

For the past 4 years our Branch has been conducting an annual online survey to find out whether or not we are successfully meeting the expectations of our membership.

There are always a range of improvements that we can make to better serve Branch members while maintaining a healthy Men's social organization.

One major highlight on this year's survey is that a number of men have volunteered to serve in leadership roles for the branch.

Never fear, those who indicated an interest will be called to help out.

Leadership service is a great way to meet others and establish long term friendships across the branch. It also keeps our branch vibrant and active with fun and interesting activities for both our men and their spouses and partners.

This year we had 86 responses. The main area for improvement is our monthly lunch program where food quality has been a problem and prices of course

have risen. Our BEC team has addressed this with Boundary Oak Management and this year's Corned Beef Lunch was indeed much improved.

The BEC is also forming a team to further investigate options for food/price, sound system, seating, and additional social time as part of the agenda.

Members have also indicated that they would like to hear more about decisions and steps that the BEC is or will be taking after each BEC meeting.

We received 40 mentions related to the recruitment of new members which recognize the need to reach out to younger men, insure that new members are fully supported, consider various incentives, and expanding the number of activities that we offer.

The leading activities of interest for addition include chess, theater/ opera, West Coast Weekend trips, full day trips (Like a train ride to Sacramento Old Town) computer technology, and CPR training.

More promotion and activity encouragement especially for new members is recommended.

A special thanks to all who have taken the time to complete the survey. The BEC will do its best to act on the ideas and information provided.

## SIR BRANCH 116

# SPRING FLING

THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2024, 1:00PM-3:30PM

Byron Park

1700 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek

Hosted Bar and Social Hour with Appetizers Followed by a wonderful buffet-style "Linner" with surprises. Full menu to follow.

Cost: \$15.00 per person.

Limited to 74 persons. Anyone over the limit will be a waiting list.

Application deadline of May 1.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: SIRS Branch 116 \$15 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail checks to: Charlie Guthrie, 3136 Serene Court, Richmond, CA 94803-0580

# Branch Activities



## Community Service Jeff Johnson

*"If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be heard."*

Food Bank on February 28th, Volunteer T-shirts were given to members who are working our events, first worn at this event of sorting and packaging fruit for distribution to charity outlets.



White Pony Express on March 14th, sorting and repacking fruit, vegetables and grab-and-go food contributed by large grocers for distribution to food kitchens and other charitable outlets.



**Starting with the April lunch, there will be a Food Bank donation barrel at the entrance to Boundary Oaks for donations.** More details will follow.

Next month we will be at the Contra Costa Food Bank working on a conveyor line packing individual food boxes for distribution by other agencies.. Let me know if you are interested in joining us. (jeffjohnson9000@att.net or 415-652-4840.

# Branch Activities



## Walking Tours Greg Hughes

### Walking Tours – Bay Model

On **Friday April 26**, the Walking Tour Activity will visit the Bay Model facility in Sausalito. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Bay Model is a working hydraulic scale model of the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta System.

Participants should plan to arrive in Sausalito by 10:30. Parking is available at the Bay Model facility. We will tour the Model from 11 to 12. We lunch at Salito's, a nearby seafood and steak restaurant. They have a very large outdoor patio that looks over the

Sausalito Harbor.

If you wish to participate please contact Greg Hughes (greghughes505@gmail.com, 925-998-5650, or Jim Tamulski (tamulski.james@gmail.com, 415-297-2655). If you wish to go, but need transportation, please call us as well and we will try to accommodate.

Lastly, please pencil in to your calendar the next Walking Tour activities. June 22 – San Francisco Maritime Museum and waterfront walking tour. July 27- Ukelele performance in Larkey Park Walnut Creek.



**SIR Branch 116 Singer Dave Williams and Guitarist Paul King leading "God Bless America" at March Luncheon**



## Dine-O-SIR Jerry Hicks

### Favorite Fables of La Fontaine

Jean de La Fontaine ranked among the masterpieces of French literature in seventeenth century. Another masterpiece is the delicious French and Italian cuisine brought to us by La Fontaine's Owner/Chef Hasan Yildez in downtown Walnut Creek. A sumptuous dinner, with seventy-six of our Sirs celebrated the Equinox first day of spring. Above and beyond, Chef Yildez prepared delicious appetizers for our social hour. Notable was the excellent service by the hardworking staff. Five stars

tallied for another excellent Dine-O-Sir evening.

Our Dine-O-Sir Committee, led by Tom Eller and Larry Heaton, is having discussions for a rerun of last year's patio dinner at Hazy BBQ, celebrating the summer Solstice. The June evening was very popular, and many have suggested this friendly get-together again with a good buffet selection. Look for the May Las Trampas newsletter for information.

Your Dine-O-SIR committee: Jerry Hicks, Bob Donohue, Tom Eller, Larry Heaton, Mike Yale .

# Branch Activities



## Mexican Train Dominos Richard Madden

Mexican Train" is a domino game which uses a set of Double Twelve Dominoes. From 2 to 8 can play. Each player draws 11 to 15 dominoes. The number of dominoes each player draws depends on the number of players. The object of the game is to play all your dominoes. When you draw your hand, you set it up so that the adjacent dominoes match. During the play of a round there are things that can derail your train so that you cannot play. This can make the game very interesting and a lot of FUN!

We normally meet at 10:00 AM on the second Wednesday of each month at the Church of Christ located at 500 Minert Road, Walnut Creek.

We met in March with nine in attendance. Those present were Gary Bonfiglio, Paul Freitas, Earl Gore, guest, Alex Lutkus, Richard Madden, Kirk McVean, Alan Polanger, John Riordan and Harry Sherinian. We had two tables with four at one and five at the other. Alex, Earl, Gary, Kirk and Paul played at one table with their scores ranging from 300 to 452. Alex was high with a score of 300. At the second table was Alan, Harry John and Richard where their scores ranged from 218 to 513. Cudos to Harry for his score of 218.

You can contract Richard Madden, maddenram@sbcglobal.net or 925.788.4223



## Wine-O-SIR David Havlik

After a looong dry spell, due in part to COVID, the WINE-O-SIRS finally got together again for a wine tasting! We met at the home of Lou and Carole Meylan and enjoyed a range of Lodi Zinfandels and

tasty appetizers, together with the company of SIRS wine Aficionados.

Our next wine tasting event will be on **May 23rd** at the home of Jon Dickson.



Bill McCallum and  
Richard Slaton



Bob Colvin, Jerry Hicks, Paul Russell  
and Bob Huck



Judy Havlik with hosts  
Carole and Lou Meylan

# Branch Activities



## Book Group 2 Scott Clark

Book Club 2 met in March to discuss the book *Vengeance*, by George Jonas. Members in attendance voted the book 3.8/5.

Our next meeting will be Thursday April 18, 11 AM, at Boundary Oaks Golf Club. We will discuss the book *Four Winds*, by Kristin Hannah. Contact Scott Clark for more information, 925-998-4553 or [scottmclark72@gmail.com](mailto:scottmclark72@gmail.com)

*Vengeance* is a true story that reads like a novel. It is the account of five ordinary Israelis, selected to vanish into "the cold" of espionage secrecy -- their mission to hunt down and kill the PLO terrorists responsible for the massacre of eleven Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics in 1972. This is the book that inspired the 2005 movie *Munich*.

This is the account of that secret mission, as related by the leader of the group -- the first Mossad agent to come out of "deep cover" and tell the story of a heroic endeavor that was shrouded in silence and speculation for years. He reveals the long and dangerous operation whose success was bought at a terrible cost to the idealistic volunteer agents themselves.

"Avner" was the leader of that team, handpicked by Golda Meir to avenge the monstrous crime of Munich. He and his young companions, cut off from any direct contact with Israel, set out systematically to find and kill the central figures of the PLO's

Munich operation, tracking them down wherever they lived.

The mechanics, the horror, the day-by-day suspense of what they did surpass by far anything John le Carré or Robert Ludlum could imagine, as they themselves were tracked in turn (and some killed) by PLO assassins, changing identities constantly, moving from country to country, devoting their young lives to the brutal task of vengeance.

*Vengeance* is a profoundly human document, a real-life espionage classic that plunges the reader into the shadow world of terrorism and political murder. But it goes far beyond that, to explore firsthand the feelings of disgust and doubt that gradually came to torment each member of the Israeli team, and that in the end inexorably changed their view of the mission -- and themselves.

*Vengeance* opens a window onto a secret world, a book that at the same time inspires and horrifies. For its subject is an act of revenge that goes to the very heart of the ancient biblical questions of good and evil.

Our next meeting will be Thursday April 18, 11 AM, at Boundary Oaks Golf Club. We will discuss the book *Four Winds*, by Kristin Hannah. Contact Scott Clark for more information, 925-998-4553 or [scottmclark72@gmail.com](mailto:scottmclark72@gmail.com)

## Senior Citizen Jokes

- Getting older is a real picnic - just one where everything is aged to perfection.
- You know you're a senior when finding your glasses becomes an all-day task.
- I decided I wasn't going to let getting older slow me down. But my body had other plans.
- In my days there was no Uber Eats. If you were hungry, U-ber packing your lunch!
- What musical genre do seniors with arthritis listen to? Pop.
- You know you're getting older when everything

you see at a vintage flea market is something you already own.

- Do seniors ask a genie for three wishes? No - just one. Their youth!
- Getting old is no joke. I'm on a very rigid nap schedule.
- What do cast iron pans and seniors have in common? They're both well-seasoned.
- Being a senior is a walk in the park - if it's an RV park and you're going 25mph max.

# Branch Activities



## Bridge Jon Dickson

March 26 was a Gold day for Jai Yee at the bridge table in the Brass Door restaurant. He won with over 8,000 points (8,070) including bidding and making a Grand Slam, neither of which has been accomplished for many years in our twice monthly games. Dick Chaffee who was Jai's partner in making the Grand Slam, finished second overall with 5,580 points.

The March 12 game was won by Norm Schoenfeld

with 5,550 points. Second place was Vince Yamamoto with 5,220 points.

In addition to the camaraderie and all around good time, the players at each game enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by the Brass Door.

Come join us for Chicago Style bridge on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, regardless of your skill level.



## Bocce Bob Huck

Our Bocce season will start on **Thursday, April 18** at 10:00am until noon. We will play every other Thursday through October 17. We play at the Clayton Bocce Courts on Main Street. We currently

have 4 teams and 37 players signed up and ready to play. Looking forward to a fun and exciting season.

Bob Huck ([bhuck10@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bhuck10@sbcglobal.net))



9-Hole Golf Group at Diablo Hills Golf Course's 1<sup>st</sup> Tee

# Branch Activities



## Amiable Amblers John Riordan

March walkers included Richard Black & Donna Arganbright, Steve Bort, Art & Mary Alice Donaldson, Al & Nancy Farbman, Dick Frankel, Paul & Anna Freitas, David & Colleen Geary, Dan Green, Peter & Sandy Loew, John & Gail Riordan, Brad & Winnie Stribling, Tim Tinnes, Tom & Mary Welte, and Joel & Susan White.

On March 8 we walked north along the Lafayette-Moraga trail from the Moraga Commons, with a post-walk gathering at the Moraga Town Bakery and Caff . On March 15 we walked north along the Iron Horse trail from the Walnut Creek Civic Park, with a post-walk gathering at Caffe La Scala. On March 22 we walked the loop in the Newhall Community Park, with a post-walk gathering at Huckleberry's.

The April walks will begin at 9:00AM. On **April 5** we will walk west along the Contra Costa Canal Trail

from the Countrywood Shopping Center; the post-walk gathering will be at the Black Bear Diner. On **April 12** we will walk west along the Lafayette-Moraga Trail from the Olympic Blvd Staging Area; the post-walk gathering will be at Starbucks. Details of the **April 19 and 26** walks are still to be determined.

These walks are for individuals or couples, as spouses and significant others are encouraged to participate. The significant other/spouse is also invited to participate even when the member is unable to. SIR members, including those from other branches, wishing to join this mellow group or to be added to the email contact list should contact me at [jriordan730@gmail.com](mailto:jriordan730@gmail.com) or 925-284-3394. Also contact me if you wish to be removed from the list for future emails.



Amiable Amblers at the waterfall on the Lafayette-Moraga Trail



## Book Exchange Dick Kauffman

### Book Exchange

Bring one or many books to the luncheon and exchange them for other books.

The Book Exchange is here to provide free books on an exchange basis.

Hopefully you can find some books that may be of interest to you.

**Happy Reading**

## SIR Web Addresses

SIR 116 Web Site

[branch116.org](http://branch116.org)

Branch 116 Golf

[branch116golf.org](http://branch116golf.org)

Branch 116 Shopping Cart

[sons-in-retirement-las-trampas-br-116.square.site](http://sons-in-retirement-las-trampas-br-116.square.site)

SIR Happenings State Newsletter

[sirinc.org/newsletters/](http://sirinc.org/newsletters/)

## Trampas Topics Submissions

We need your contributions and suggestions for Trampas Topics. Please send photos, news items, SIR activities, and Letters to the Editor:



Neil Schmidt, Trampas Topics Editor ([trampastopics@gmail.com](mailto:trampastopics@gmail.com))

# Branch Activities



## SIR Golf

Bernie Wroblewski, Golf Chairman

We have an active golf organization consisting of 18-hole and 9-hole groups. A small annual donation is required to play in either group. The 18-hole group plays once a week in a Tournament format with play alternating between local courses and courses that may be 10 to 50 miles away.

In addition to the Tournament format, Special Events such as Match Play, Best Ball, Scramble, and others are also periodically scheduled.

Those playing in the 18-hole group must be members of the Northern California Golf

Association (NCGA) and establish a handicap index. You may join the NCGA through our SIR club or through another club.

Foursomes in both the 18-hole and 9-hole groups are arranged so that players can meet and enjoy playing with most, if not all, the other players in the branch.

All our events are listed in the Trampas Topics and on our web site at [branch116.org/116-golf](http://branch116.org/116-golf). Join up with us and enjoy outings with a great bunch of guys at some great courses with reasonable prices.

## 2024 Golf Special Events

Four-man of four teams competed in a best 2-balls at Boundary Oak on March 4, following weekend rains. Harris's team of Portillo, Meyer, and Hemmelsbach clobbered and humiliating the other three teams by 14 strokes! Astonishing!

Sixteen players have entered 2024 Individual Matches which evolve over 4 months to name the Branch Matchplay Championship. Somewhat similar to basketball "March Madness", our matches are friendly fun competition within our golfers.

State Sir Golf two-day tournament for four-man teams will be played in late April at Napa's

outstanding Chardonnay and Eagle Vines golf courses. Our Branch team, leading by our Big Sir Alan Pope with Colvin, Hicks and Lichtig, has entered for hopefully sunny day which is among renowned Napa grape vines.

Famous annual Carmel Golf trip for our Branch golfers and significant others is planned for September 10-12. Phil Goff and his committee organized for excellent courses of Monterey Pines and Pacific Grove, banquet at Lugano Swiss Bistro, and hotel of Carmel Mission Inn. Save three or more nights for a grand trip to Carmel.

## Golf Website

The Golf Website is: [branch116golf.org](http://branch116golf.org)  
Please bookmark it in your "Favorites" list of websites to access information on the following:

- Annual Golf Schedule: Dates, times, and courses as well as detailed information on costs, payment information, deadlines, and special event facts.

- 18-Hole Pairings: Shows captains, teams, starting times & handicaps for next event.
- 18-Hole Leaders and Results: Shows results from recent events and leaders in each group.
- Paid-In-Advance Sign-Ups: Shows checks that have been received for the next 3-4 pre-paid outings.

### April 9-Hole Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Organizer
Wed. 03	10:00 AM	Pleasanton	Chris Doan
Wed. 10	10:00 AM	Diablo Hills	D.McClaughry
Wed. 17	10:00 AM	Buchanan Fields	Dick Chaffee
Wed. 24	10:00 AM	Diablo Hills	D.McClaughry

### April 18-Hole Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Organizer
Mon. 01	9:40	Boundary Oak	B. Wroblewski
Mon. 08	9:40	Boundary Oak	B. Wroblewski
Tues. 16	9:36	Chardonnay	B. Wroblewski
Mon. 22	9:30	Lake Chabot	B. Wroblewski
Mon. 29	10:00	Las Positas	